(b) if so, the reasons for not undertaking the work of electrification of villages located in far flung areas/regions in Madhya Pradesh. Rajasthan and Assam in Particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam undertake works of electrification of villages located in the far-flung areas with the concessional financial assistance provided by Rural Electrifiction Corporation under the Minimum Need Programme. The physical and financial targets are fixed by the Palnning Commission each year in consultation with the State Governments.

During the Eighth plan period. 2217 villages in Madhva Pradesh. 1813 villages in Rajsthan and 512 villages in Assam have been electrified under the Minimum Need Programme.

Gap Between Demand and Supply of Power

572. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to bridge the overwhelming gap between demand and supply of power in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the past five years attempts to increase power production have failed;

(c) whether any new policy initiatives will be launched; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) the gap between demand and supply of power continues to persist on account to the fact that power generation has not kept pace with increase in demand. During the 8th Five Year Plan period (1992—97), the average annual growth rate in power generation was 6.6% as against the requiremnet of about 8% Consequently, the energy shortage had increased from 7.8% in 1991-92 to 11.5% in 1996-97. The generation of electricity during the last five years was as under:

Year	Energy Generation (BU)	% increase
1992-93	301.1	5.0
1993-94	323.5	7.4
1994-95	351.0	8.5
1995-96	380.1	8.3
1996-97	394.4	3.8

(c) and (d) To meet the projected demand, the Govenment are pursuing both short term as well as long term measures. In the short term, the objective is to improve generation from existing capacity by effecting improvement in the Plant Load Factor (PLF) and by renovation and modernisation of old plants. The long term measure includes capacity addition, and energy conservation. A conference of Chief Ministers took place on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996 to recommend a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power development. The broad Policy measures recommended are as under:—

— National Energy Policy;

— State Electricity Regulatory Commissions;

— Central Electricity Regulatory commission;

— Rationalisation of Retail Tariff;

— Private Sector Participation in distribution;

— Review of role of central agencies;

— Autonomy and corporatisation of SEBs;

— Improvement of physical parameters;

— Cogeneration/Captive generation plants;

— Advance action and high priority for hydro projects;

— Allocation of liquid fuels;

— Mega Power Projects at pit heads; and

— Setting up of washeries.

Power Projects Approved by Government

573. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the MINISTER OF POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new power projects approved by the Government till date with location of each Project. State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost, capacity and actual power likely to be generated by each during 1997-98 and Ninth Plan period;

(c) whether the international financial institutes like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and European Overseas Development Administration. U.K. have shown any interest/contributed money in financing new powergrid schemes; and

(d) if so, details thereof the financial institutions, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The details of new power gener-tion projects accorded investment approval by the Government during the last 3 years is as follows:

SI. No.	Name of the Project (Capacity in MW)	State	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Rayalasccma TPS St-II (2x210 MW)-	A.P.	'1273.00
2.	Purulia PSS (900 MW)	W.B.	1456.56
3.	Kothagudcm TPS St-V (2x250 MW)	A.P.	1890.00
4.	Diesel Generating Power Station at Kozhikodc (6x20 MW)	Kerala	355.00
5.	Muzaffarpur TPS Extn. (2x250 MW)	Bihar	1452.13

The actual power generation from these projects during Ninth Plan would depend upon actual date of synchronisation to the grid, plant load factor, availability of water (in case of hydel projects) and other relevant factors and hence cannot be computed at this stage.

(c) and (d): Details of Powergrid schemes being executed with international financial assistance are given below:

1. The world Bank loan commitments to POWERGRID today amounts to about US $ 1.5 billion.